

Introduced by Senator McClintock

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to the Yucca Mountain radioactive materials repository.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, as introduced, McClintock. Yucca Mountain radioactive materials repository: nuclear facilities.

This measure would urge the United States Secretary of Energy to expedite the review of the scientific data regarding Yucca Mountain's suitability as a permanent federal repository, and would memorialize the President of the United States to move forward with the licensing of Yucca Mountain as a permanent repository. The measure would also declare the intent of the Legislature that the California Energy Commission make an expedited finding that the State of California is ready to accept nuclear facilities, upon successful completion of the federal government's actions.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, California's acute shortage of electricity
- 2 generating capacity presents an immediate threat to the health and
- 3 safety of its citizens and the prosperity of its economy; and

1 WHEREAS, In order to secure a safe and prosperous future for
2 its citizens, California must dramatically expand its capacity to
3 generate clean, cheap, and abundant electricity; and
4 WHEREAS, California needs a broad portfolio of energy
5 supply options to hedge against fuel price fluctuations, fuel
6 shortages, and import disruptions; and
7 WHEREAS, California’s nuclear powerplants have proven to
8 be safe, dependable, economic, and environmentally benign
9 sources of electricity to California citizens, producing 16 percent
10 of the electricity generated in California today; and
11 WHEREAS, Nuclear power requires minimal land intrusion,
12 and prevents the release of millions of tons of air pollutants and
13 greenhouse gases, thus being critical for compliance with air
14 quality laws and regulations; and
15 WHEREAS, New advanced standardized nuclear powerplant
16 designs with increased safety and reliability features have been
17 recently certified by the gNuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
18 and are ready to meet the strict siting requirements set forth by the
19 NRC in its regulations; and
20 WHEREAS, California law precludes approval of new nuclear
21 powerplants until an appropriate site for a high level nuclear waste
22 repository has been approved by the federal government; and
23 WHEREAS, Over seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000) have
24 been spent on studies of Yucca Mountain, Nevada that show that
25 the proposed site is an ideal repository to safely contain radioactive
26 materials, with a capacity sufficient to meet all foreseeable storage
27 needs; and
28 WHEREAS, Studies of Yucca Mountain have yielded the
29 scientific information necessary for a decision by the United States
30 Secretary of Energy that there are no technical or scientific issues
31 that will prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent
32 repository, clearly supporting a recommendation by the Secretary
33 to the President of the United States to proceed on licensing a
34 permanent repository at Yucca Mountain; and
35 WHEREAS, Since 1983, consumers of electricity from
36 California’s existing nuclear plants have committed more than
37 eight hundred seventeen million dollars (\$817,000,000) into the
38 federal Nuclear Waste Fund to finance site assessment and nuclear
39 waste management; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
2 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California hereby
3 determines that nuclear energy is a necessary source of electricity
4 generation, with no detrimental impact on its citizens and
5 environment; and be it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges
7 the United States Secretary of Energy to expedite the review of the
8 scientific data regarding Yucca Mountain's suitability as a
9 permanent federal repository and make his recommendation to the
10 President this year; and be it further

11 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
12 memorializes the President of the United States to move forward
13 with the licensing of Yucca Mountain as an ideal site for a
14 permanent repository; and be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California hereby
16 declares its intent that, upon successful completion of the federal
17 government's actions finding that Yucca Mountain is an
18 acceptable site for the licensing of a permanent high level waste
19 repository, the California Energy Commission should make an
20 expedited finding, in accordance with Section 25524.2 of the
21 Public Resources Code, that the State of California is hereby ready
22 to accept nuclear facilities certified by the Nuclear Regulatory
23 Commission on sites approved by the commission, for the purpose
24 of providing clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable electricity
25 for the families of California, and be it further

26 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
27 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
28 States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
29 to each Senator and Representative from California in the
30 Congress of the United States, and to the United States Secretary
31 of Energy.

